



U.S. COAST GUARD



Homeland Security

Flag Voice 203

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OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM (ODU) UPDATE

By early December, the manufacturer will have delivered nearly 100,000 uniforms, and the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) will have a working inventory representing most of the even sizes from 32-X-S through 58-L. This will represent approximately 55 of the 83 different size ODU tops. The remaining odd sizes, along with a continuous supply of the most popular even sizes, will be delivered over the next several months until the terms of the entire contract are satisfied. While the inclusion of odd-sized uniforms has required an additional upfront investment in manufacturing time and stockpiling, this decision will ultimately result in a better fitting uniform for service members in those size categories.

In the ongoing effort to achieve our desired distribution rate of approximately 4,600 per week and to make the ODU available to field units as quickly as possible, I recently authorized the delivery of partial ODU shipments in those cases where at least 75% of a unit's overall needs can be met and the balance can reasonably be expected to be shipped within 6 weeks. In those unusual cases where an additional quantity of non-core size uniforms is not scheduled for production for several months, the UDC will contact the unit POC before making a shipping decision. In all other cases, we shall continue to defer shipment until additional inventory is acquired. Unit commanders retain the option of transitioning to the ODU upon receipt of the partial shipment or waiting until the entire order has been satisfied.

As indicated in my previous Flag Voice # 202, the UDC will maintain a backorder listing for all units receiving partial shipments. Those members on the list will receive priority consideration until their unit's entire order has been filled. As we endeavor to comply with this 75% standard, we will most likely have to deviate from our priority listing from time to time. That is, we may ship uniforms to a Priority-II unit while we wait for needed uniforms to satisfy some Priority-I units. In these cases, the Priority I units will remain on the top of the list, and their orders will be filled as soon as the missing sizes arrive at the UDC.

In recent weeks, the UDC has received a number of returned packages for members who have transferred to other units. The research associated with locating these members and re-forwarding their individualized ODU shipment is detracting from the larger distribution effort. Units are requested to forward ODU packages (return receipt) to the members new duty station. In the event that a member has been released from active duty, units should return the unopened box to the UDC where it will be used to satisfy the needs of another unit.

Unit POCs are asked to continue to refrain from contacting the UDC directly to check on the status of their ODU order. Uniform questions should be direct to Mr. Robert Gitschier, Uniform System Manager (G-WPM-1), 202-267-0730.

Regards,

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RADM Kenneth T. Venuto
Ken Venuto

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